

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, CF, US
SUBJ: US-CONGOLESE RELATIONS

1. CONGOLESE PERM REP MONDJO MET WITH MISOFF AT UN MARCH 9, AT MONDJO'S REQUEST. MONDJO SAID THAT, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM BRAZZAVILE, HE WAS TO TELL US THAT GOCB WISHES TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, BUT "WITHOUT CONDITIONS". ALL DIFFERENCES WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD BE DISCUSSED EITHER AT NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS OR FOLLOWING SUCH A NORMALIZATION.

2. COMMENT: DURING MISOFF'S DISCUSSION WITH MONDJO, MONDJO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE LATEST CONGOLESE BID IS CONSIDERABLY MORE RESERVED THAN PREVIOUS OFFER. MONDJO SAID, FOR INSTANCE, THAT CONGO WAS PREPARED TO RENEW FULL TIES WITH WASHINGTON "WHILE MAINTAINING ITS PRINCIPLES OVER QUESTIONS OF PUERTO RICO" AND ANGOLA. FURTHER, ALTHOUGH MONDJO HAD ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS EXPRESSED REGRET OVER IMPRISONMENTS WHICH HAD, AMONG OTHER CAUSES, OCCASIONED WITHDRAWAL OF OUR STAFF FROM BRAZZAVILLE, THIS TIME MONDJO DID NOT. INSTEAD, HE BLAMED OUR EARLIER PROBLEMS ON UNITED STATES CONCERN OVER THE CHINESE PRESENCE IN THE CONGO, A DISTORTION WHICH MISOFF HASTENED TO CLARIFY. IN PARTING, MONDJO LEFT IMPRESSION THAT ALTHOUGH NEW GOCB MAY BE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES, SOME "EDUCATION" OVER QUESTIONS

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SUCH AS PUERTO RICO WAS NECESSARY. MISOFF INFORMED

MONDJO THAT HE WOULD COMMUNICATE HIS GOVERNMENT'S
MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON.

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